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Issue 228

February 13th 2015

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Oil-filled radiator blamed for major fire at Chard furniture warehouse

FAULTY oil-filled radiator has been blamed as the cause of the massive fire at Derham's Removals and Storage in East Street, Chard.

The alarm was raised just after 8.15pm on Thursday, February 5th, and fire appliances were despatched from stations in Chard, Crewkerne, Axminster, Colyton, Wellington, Honiton, Yeovil and Wiveliscombe.

Gas cylinders were involved in the fire, meaning that a 200-metre cordon had to be put into place and nearby properties evacuated.

A spokesperson for the fire and rescue service said: "Following fire investigation, the cause was confirmed as accidental due to a fault on an oil filled radiator. No persons were involved or injured."

The damage to the building was described as 100 per cent damage by fire.

South Somerset District Council came to the rescue of 30 evacuated residents. They were initially looked after at JD Wetherspoons and by Avon and Somerset Police until the district council's Civil Contingencies team arrived and were able to find temporary accommodation for the evacuated residents.

Residents stayed at the Lordleaze Hotel in Chard where they remained overnight before returning to their properties around midday on Friday. A council representative stayed at the hotel with them to ensure that they were kept up to date with the progress of the return to their properties.

Speaking about the incident Pam Harvey, Civil Contingencies manager, said: "We were alerted to a major incident at 9.30pm on Thursday evening and I sent a member of staff to assess the situation and to find out how many people needed a place of safety.

"Once we had confirmation of around 30 people, I arranged for the Lordleaze Hotel to put the residents up for the evening and we ensured everyone had what they needed to be as comfortable as possible for the night."

Councillor Henry Hobhouse, Portfolio Holder for Civil Contingencies, added: "We had some great support from local businesses that night who were offering suitable accommodation to the residents and we must thank everyone for that.

"All residents were very thankful for our assistance in helping them get accommodation for the night and yet again, our staff showed that they are willing to go that extra mile and support residents when in need."

Glovers meet fans at play premiere

PLAYERS, management and backroom staff from Yeovil Town Football Club were at The David Hall, South Petherton recently for the premiere of the play "The Giants", inspired by the club and produced by West Coker-based Wassail Theatre. Pictured above, back row, left to right, are: then YTFC manager Gary Johnson, Tom Davies (chairman of Petherton Arts Trust), YTFC team coach Darren Way, Nick White (producer of The Giants), YTFC manager Terry Skiverton and YTFC director Andy Rossiter. In the front row, left to right, are Yeovil fans Henry Kent (13), Zac Meeten (11) and Jamie Kent (10).

Photo by EMILY JANE KNOTT

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MUCH LOVE & BEST WISHES
NANNY & GRANDAD

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LOTS OF LOVE MUM, DAD & DILLON

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Cabinet approves county's future budget proposals

LEADER WELCOMES £600K 'SURPRISE' GRANT FROM GOVERNMENT

SOMERSET County Council's critical future budget proposals – laying out over £57million of investment, £300million of spending and £16million of savings – has now been approved by Cabinet.

Cabinet members this week unanimously backed the authority's plans for investing in buildings and structures and essential spending for its key services, recommending them for agreement by full council.

This marks the next step along in the yearly budget-making process.

County council leader, John Osman, also welcomed a last-minute £600,000 central government grant, confirmed last week.

The unexpected windfall has enabled Cabinet to agree to withdraw this year's savings proposals relating to the Pathways For Adults (P4A) programme, which works with adults at risk of or experiencing homelessness.

The county council will now continue working closely and consulting with district council colleagues and other organisations, in the hope of reaching alternative funding arrangements by the end of the 2015/16 financial year.

A portion of this "surprise" government grant, along with renegotiations with bus service operators, also means the council will now likely be able to retain its funding for seven Saturday bus routes. This will include the 161 service, serving Wells – Shepton Mallet – Frome.

A final decision on the bus savings will be taken on Monday, February 16th, when Councillor Harvey Siggs, Cabinet member for highways and transport, agrees the details of this reduced savings package.

Among other major decisions taken by Cabinet this week, were:

Continuing to lobby central government for fairer funding for Somerset

Agreeing plans to reshape the way in which Somerset residents receive their health and social care services, including by working more closely with partners

Agreeing to introduce more regular reviews of individuals using residential care in the county, to ensure they get the care that best suits them, reflecting changes in circumstances.

Councillor Osman said: "I am ever-proud of the hard work this authority does for the people of Somerset – and in the face of central government's driving programme of austerity.

"The government's express ambition is to completely remove millions of pounds-worth of revenue funding by 2020, and maybe even before.

"Which is why these savings we are being forced to make, and explore, are not just about this coming financial year, but being realistic about the years to come."

Somerset's 55 elected county councillors, and the public, are invited to attend the full council meeting on Wednesday, February 18th at Taunton's Shire Hall.

This will be the next, possibly final, step in agreeing the action plan for the council's financial future.

To read the documents in full, visit www1.somerset.gov.uk/council/meetings/ and search for "county council", or for a hard copy version of the agenda and papers, phone the Community Governance Group on 01823 357628.

Police investigating sheep rustling

POLICE are investigating the rustling of 200 in-lamb sheep from a field at Ash, near Martock, on Friday night.

The sheep were all ear-tagged and marked with a large red patch on their backs, as well as an orange one on a front shoulder, and were all North Country Mules (as shown in photo).

A stolen vehicle used to transport them has been recovered in Ilford, near Ilminster, after it was torched.

A V registration Leyland Daf box van, cream in colour, was stolen on the same night from a business at Broadshard, near Crewkerne, probably at about 11.30pm.

This may also be connected with a Long Sutton farm burglary last Thursday, in which sheep feed, lambing equipment and hurdles were taken. The theft took place between 2am and 10pm in the Knightlands Lane area.

WPC Rowan Hawkins, from the Rural Crime Team, said: "Stealing a flock of ewes due to give birth soon is a devastating crime for a farmer, and it appears to be linked to two other burglaries in South Somerset.

"To take such a large number of animals is a highly organised crime and will require access to suitable facilities.

"I appeal to the farming community for anyone with any information which can assist in this investigation to come forward as soon as possible as we do have some lines of enquiry that we are following, and we also need to be mindful of the sheep's welfare."

If you saw anyone acting suspiciously or any vehicles involved, or have any information which may help in the investigation, contact police on 101 and quote reference 13272/15. If you wish to give information in strict confidence, call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 and they will pass it to police anonymously.

Yeovil brothel closed after court order

POLICE secured a brothel closure order Monday on a flat in Wyndham Street, Yeovil, where vulnerable adults were being exploited.

Bristol Magistrates Court made the order for three months, after police served a temporary closure notice on January 27th, until a court application could be made.

Somerset East Chief Inspector Jeff Foreman said: "This closure is part of an investigation into sexual exploitation which has already yielded some arrests.

"I'm pleased the court agreed with us that the premises should be closed for three months, and we will consider what further action needs to be taken over the coming months.

"Our officers and legal team produced a lot of evidence about the activity there, so I am grateful for their efforts to protect the victims and public, and their efforts to bring anyone involved in criminal activity to justice."

Three people have been passed on to the National Referral Mechanism, a system which helps protect victims of trafficking and sexual exploitation.

Two men, aged 71 and 63, and a female aged 53, from Yeovil remain on bail as part of the wider investigation.

No one is permitted to enter the flat now, except for carrying out essential repairs or maintenance. Any unauthorised entry could be punished by up to a year in prison and a maximum fine of £5,000.

Government minister praises local firm after scooping top engineering award

■ AWARD WINNERS: Dove Stone Hydro team with Professor David Balmforth (President of ICE) and Kathleen Harrison (chair of ICE North West)

CREWKERNE-based turbine maker Ecowave Systems Ltd. has won The North West Civil Engineering Community Award - dubbed the "Engineering Oscar" - for a project at Dove Stone Reservoir, near Oldham.

The Dove Stone Hydro Scheme generates enough electricity to power 75 houses, using reservoir water that would otherwise be wasted, and designers say the scheme effectively prevents the emission of 164 tonnes of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere each year.

The £516,000 project, which is believed to be the first project of its kind in England, was brought to fruition thanks to a partnership between private company United Utilities and volunteers from the Saddleworth Community Hydro group, with Ecowave providing the turbines and control equipment for the scheme.

The award is given by The Institution of Civil Engineers, and government minister Dan Rogerson MP

He commented: "Dove Stone Hydro Scheme is a ground-breaking project which thoroughly deserves this recognition from the ICE awards.

"We provided £2million of funding for the Rural Carbon Challenge to support initiatives just like this – promoting renewable energy while making important contributions to our rural communities.

"Everyone who played a part in Dove Stone's success should be very proud."

Craig A. Taylor, managing director of Ecowave Systems Ltd, added: "Hydropower projects are notoriously complex but the Dove Stone scheme took this to a new level. The determination of the community group has to be applauded and we offer our congratulations to all involved.

"We are delighted this project has now received the recognition it deserves and we hope other community groups will be encouraged its success."

Alan Butler, North West regional director of the Institution of Civil Engineers, said: "These annual awards help showcase some of the excellent civil engineering that's happening in the UK, and in this case we're also looking at a hugely successful community project with a particular emphasis on sustainability.

"Dove Stone Hydro Scheme is a fantastic achievement and it's a great example of the innovation and the civil engineering genius that go into providing this country with world-class infrastructure, while improving the environment and benefiting the economy."

Members of Saddleworth Community Hydro say the inspiration for the project came from the 2006 Academy Award-winning film "An Inconvenient Truth", about former US vice-president Al Gore's attempts to educate the public regarding climate change. The construction work for the project was carried out by CT Construction of Chinley, Derbyshire. The Institution of Civil Engineers announced the results at an Oscars-style awards dinner in Manchester on Friday, February 6th.

■ COOKING UP A STORM: Wadham School pupils who took part in the competition including Will Pym (second from right). Below, judges with their bouquets and, bottom, tasting the dishes

Pupils take to the kitchen for national competition

STUDENTS from Wadham School in Crewkerne were once again challenged to take part in the National Young Chef Competition by the local Rotary Club's Youth Service Committee.

Five Year 10 donned their aprons to serve up a three course meal and judges awarded points on menu planning, hygiene, skill level, costings, presentation and, of course, the final taste.

The judges were Maureen Fasan from The White Lion Carvery in Crewkerne, Kath Kersley from the Admiral Hood Inn in Mosterton and Sheila Wroe, a retired lecturer in catering. They chose Will Pym as the winner, after serving a delicious fresh tomato soup, lasagne with garlic bread and apple and raspberry crumble.

Will won a £20 Amazon voucher and will go on to represent Crewkerne in the district round to be held in March.

Youth Service Committee Chairman, Tony Warren, said "The students made a real effort. This is a golden opportunity for students to bridge the gap between school and work with the support of Rotary."

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WI ladies start campaign for defibrillator

■ STARTING THE FUND: District councillor John Dyke presents £500 to WI president Judy Welch to start the defibrillator fund and, below, members outside the WI hall where the equipment will be installed

MISTERTON WI has started a campaign to raise £2,500 for a potentially life-saving defibrillator for the village.

The defibrillator will be installed outside the WI Hall on Middle Street and will be available for the emergency services and general public to use in the event of a heart attack.

WI members were recently visited by district councillor John Dyke at their first meeting of the New Year, when he presented a cheque for £500 from his health and wellbeing fund to president Judy Welch to start off the fund.

In addition, the group received a further cheque for £100 this week from one of the regular hirers of the hall, Mark One Fitness.

Mark said: "I was reading the local newspaper and saw the article on Misterton WI who are starting a fundraiser for a defibrillator. Since I have been using the hall for the past 18 months or so for my workouts I thought why not contribute a week's pay-as-you-go takings to the fund to help them out.

"My awesome clients did not disappoint, we smashed a good week of training and got to £100. I only wish I could contribute more, so if the local area chips in a bit we could easily get them to their target.

"You will never know when you will need one of these machines, having one near where you live could save your life one day. Mark One Fitness is all about improving and lengthening peoples lives through fitness and this is something I feel very strongly about."

The WI is holding a music quiz in March to boost funds, a hot cross bun coffee morning on Good Friday, and a social evening at Misterton Village Hall on April 18th, where we will be entertainment by John Diamond as Elvis.

Residents' association agrees to disband

WADHAM Park Residents' Association has disbanded.

At its annual general meeting in January, retiring chairman Norman Fleetwood announced that he had decided, along with his fellow officers and committee members, to stand down.

He invited others to take over the running of the association for the future but in the absence of any willing volunteers, he proposed that the association should be disbanded and its funds distributed as agreed at the meeting.

After further discussion, the retiring chairman proposed that on closing the association any remaining funds should be split 50/50 between two charities - St Margaret's Hospice and the League of Friends of Crewkerne Hospital, which was agreed.

School receives £368k grant

LOCAL MP David Laws has welcomed news that Merriott Primary School, near Crewkerne, will received £368,000 for a new kitchen from the Department for Education.

The new kitchen will allow the school to provide hot meals to children, tying in with the Liberal Democrat's free school meals policy, which gives every child in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 classes a free school meal, implemented back in September 2014.

As part of this policy, the government set aside £175million to help schools build kitchens and facilities to deliver hot school meals to children of infant age, with Merriott receiving £368,000.

The school will also be able to use the new kitchen and dining building for curricular activities like gym.

Liberal Democrat MP for the Yeovil constituency and Minister of State for Schools, Mr Laws, said: "This investment is great news for all the pupils at Merriott School. The money will allow the school to build a fantastic kitchen and dining area which will help serve hot meals to all infant age pupils, ensuring that they receive a nutritious meal every single day they are at school.

"When we implemented the Liberal Democrat Free School Meals policy we knew that some schools would need help to build extra facilities, which is why we set aside £175million to do just that.

"I am really pleased that Merriott will now be able to build a kitchen and provide healthy, hot meals on site for all their younger pupils."

New appointment at Stokes

Stokes Partners LLP, the Crewkerne-based niche law firm that provides specialist business and personal legal services, has appointed Rachel Chugg as an associate to join its expanding Commercial Services Team.

Rachel worked at a top tier city firm in London before relocating to the South West. She has most recently been working in-house within the legal team of a well known PLC. Rachel deals with all aspects of commercial property law and has developed a niche area of expertise in renewable energy for both energy developers and landowners.

Managing partner Brendan Pang said: "Rachel's arrival and addition to our Commercial Services team at a busy time of increased activity and business growth is very timely. She brings to the party her experience and skills in commercial property and renewable energy projects to compliment the existing team. As an ambitious and young practice we offer excellent career opportunities to the right candidates.

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Chard given springtime spruce up

CHARD Town Team, in partnership with South Somerset District Council, Chard Town Council and the Somerset Market Towns Investment Group (MTIG), has recently completed a further project to bring improvements to the town centre.

The project saw 12 large plastic planters in the town centre fitted with wooden sleeves. The planters had begun to show their age and the makeover has helped to smarten up the centre of Chard, thanks to funding from MTIG.

Councillor Dave Bulmer, a representative of the Market Towns Investment Group, said: "The fitting of the wooden sleeves improves the appearance of the planters, contributing to making Chard town centre a more attractive place visit and shop.

"This is another good example of the Market Towns Investment Group working in partnership with the Town Team, Chard Town Council and South Somerset District Council to deliver positive and achievable projects for the greater good of Chard."

Councillor Angie Singleton, chairman of the Market Towns Investment Group, added: "The Market Towns Investment Group are always keen to support projects that enhance the appearance of South Somerset's market towns and boost opportunities to increase trade."

The new project is part of a broad range of revitalisation initiatives developed by the Chard Town Team and the Town Council to create a more attractive environment for both visitors and local residents to enjoy.

Rotarians donate to Lord's Larder

■ AT the weekly meeting of Chard Rotary Club, president Eric Beckley welcomed John White of the Lord's Larder food bank and presented him with £200. The money was raised at the Rotary Club's annual carol singing at Tesco before Christmas. In thanking the club for their donation, Mr White spoke about the ever-growing demand on the service. The club has also presented a cheque for £100 to Liam Brown from Chard, Britain's Champion BMX rider, to assist with his travel and other expenses,. His success has recently been reported in the local press. Pictured above are Rotarian Robin Williams, president Eric Beckley, John White from the Lord's Larder and Rotarian Tracy Murphy.

Talk on history of local engineering firm

COMBE St Nicholas Parish History Group are holding a meeting on Monday, March 9th when Simon Jennings of Phoenix Engineering, Chard, will be giving a talk about the company's history from 1891 to 2015.

The meeting is to be held in Combe St Nicholas Village Hall and starts at 7.30pm. There will be a very quick annual general meeting first.

Entry costs £2 for members or £3 for visitors - all welcome.

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... Did you know ...

❤ THE saint we celebrate on Valentine's Day is known officially as St. Valentine of Rome in order to differentiate him from the dozen or so other Valentines on the list. Because Valentinus -from the Latin word for worthy, strong or powerful - was a popular name between the second and eighth centuries AD, several martyrs over the centuries have carried this name. The official Roman Catholic roster of saints shows about a dozen who were named Valentine or some variation thereof.

❤ VALENTINE is the patron saint of beekeepers and epilepsy, among many other things. Saints are certainly expected to keep busy in the afterlife. Their holy duties include interceding in earthly affairs and entertaining petitions from living souls. In this respect, St Valentine has wide-ranging spiritual responsibilities. People call on him to watch over the lives of lovers, of course, but also for interventions regarding beekeeping and epilepsy, as well as the plague, fainting and travelling. As you might expect, he's also the patron saint of engaged couples and happy marriages.

❤ YOU can find Valentine's skull in Rome. The flower-adorned skull of St Valentine is on display in the Basilica of Santa Maria in Cosmedin, Rome. In the early 1800s, the excavation of a catacomb near Rome yielded skeletal remains and other relics now associated with St Valentine.

❤ THE medieval English poet Geoffrey Chaucer often took liberties with history, placing his poetic characters into fictitious historical contexts that he represented as real. No record exists of romantic celebrations on Valentine's Day prior to a poem Chaucer wrote around 1375. In his work "Parliament of Foules," he links a tradition of courtly love with the celebration of St. Valentine's Feast Day.

Recruitment agency donates hoard of feed to Chard animal sanctuary

A MOUNTAIN of animal feed has recently been donated to Ferne Animal Sanctuary, near Chard.

Helen Lacey, managing director at Red Berry Recruitment, together with her staff in Shepton Mallett, Yeovil, Bridgwater and Taunton, decided to help the sanctuary, based at Wambrook, by asking all their contacts to donate whatever they could.

At a regional Women in Business Networking South West meeting, Helen also asked members from Yeovil, Exeter and Taunton to help.

Jenny Wheadon, head of external funding at the sanctuary, said: "I was astounded when Gary Govier from Centaur Supplies turned up on site in his van with this huge amount of feed for the animals.

"Helen, her staff at Red Berry Recruitment and all the WIBN South West members have done a marvellous job helping us. They have all been very generous donating feed and toys. Our sincerest thanks go to everyone involved."

Helen added: "Red Berry Recruitment was delighted to feature Ferne Animal Sanctuary as one of our Christmas charities last year. Our staff, clients and members of the public were amazing in their response to our request for donated items.

"Christmas is such a special time and we feel it is our duty and responsibility to spread a little of the goodwill spirit."

Ferne Animal Sanctuary is a registered charity open to the public all year round, except Christmas Day and New Year's Day. It relies solely on donations. To support the "New Digs for Dogs" £1million project for 2014/15 and learn about all future events visit the website www.ferneanimalsanctuary.org or call 01460 65214.

■ FEEDING THE 5,000: Jenny Wheadon, head of external funding at Ferne Animal Sanctuary with some of the donated feed

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Yarlington choose St Margaret's Hospice as charity of the year

STAFF from a local housing association have been busy planning ways in which they can raise money for their charity of the year, St Margaret's Hospice.

The hospice won the vote from Yarlington Housing Group employees this year and will benefit from their fundraising and volunteering efforts over the next 12 months.

St Margaret's provides specialist care in Taunton and Yeovil for people living with an incurable illness. The charity aims to improve quality of life for these people by bringing relief from pain and other distressing symptoms.

Ruth Morgan, community fundraiser at St Margaret's, led employees on a tour of the facilities at Little Tarratt Lane in Yeovil, to provide an insight into how the organisation utilises its charitable donations.

Ruth said: "The hospice provides dedicated medical attention and a tranquil environment for patients requiring palliative care. It costs 10 million pounds per year to run the in-patient beds, community care nursing and day centres.

"We receive a small amount of funding from the NHS but we rely heavily on donations from the public. We are thrilled that Yarlington will be supporting us this year with their fundraising efforts."

Sarah Symcox, Yarlington communications and marketing assistant, was present on the tour and has experienced first-hand the difference St Margaret's can make to patients' lives.

"Sadly my mother, Sue Wright, passed away at St Margaret's last November," she said.

"She was an ex-Yarlington employee so I'm delighted my colleagues and I can give back to the hospice. She felt very comfortable and reassured there due to the exemplary medical and holistic care she received in the final weeks of her life.

"I'm heartened that we have this extraordinary establishment in the area to look after those with life limiting illnesses and their families with immeasurable sensitivity and compassion."

Yarlington employee Sarah Gunnis was enlightened by the tour, commenting: "It was lovely to see and learn how not only the fundraising but also the efforts and time given by volunteers within the hospice and gardens has helped to make a difference to the patients' experience."

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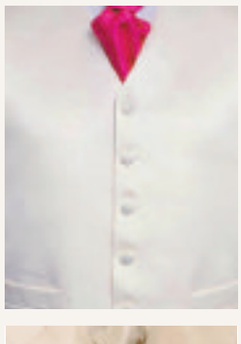
• The first stage of the process would be to choose which Jacket style and colour you would like, then select a waistcoat pattern from the vast range supplied and match accessories to finalise the look you are after. When the Groom is happy with his choices, a try on can be arranged to make sure the correct items have been selected.

• Secondly, any other members of the party will need to be measured and orders completed.

• Lastly the suits arrive approximately 2 weeks before the wedding, fittings arranged, and any adjustments can be organised for that perfect fit.

Whether it is to buy or hire Sam and her team will guide you through the process of choosing the outfits you require with as much or as little help as you want, to ensure you have as easy and stress free time as possible on the build up to you big day.

Currently there is an offer of a free suit with any parties of four or more!



Lordleaze Hotel

ONCE you have come down the lane to Lordleaze Hotel, across the middle of a large field you find yourself in a different world-away from the outside influences of today's world. Now you are in your own chosen niche to enjoy all that we lay on for you on this most important day (possibly the most important day of your life).

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There are 25 letting bedrooms – from Four-Poster, Doubles, Twins, Family, Single and Disabled and ground floor for easy access. Our kitchen produces meals to suit everyone including veggies and children with excellent West Country fayer. Nothing is set in stone, so you can have virtually anything you like. We can cater for any number up to 110 seated and our evening maximum is 200.

Why not make contact to come down and view for yourself, telephone01460 61066 or email info@lordleazehotel.com to discuss the way ahead for your most special occasion. Lordleaze Hotel is now specialising in Hog Roasts for any event so get in touch.

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Brides to be get set for the big day at annual wedding fayre

ILMINSTER-based Prima Moda Brides hosted its annual wedding fayre at The Shrubbery Hotel on Sunday.

The fayre included a number of stalls offering everything the future brides could need for their big day - from flowers to cakes and decorations.

A bridal fashion show was the highlight of the event, with models including Sian Mara, Sophie Putland, Linda Hansford, Julia Jackson and Lauren Costello-Fox who showed off their own bridal gowns from Prima Moda Brides and the Sarah Jackson Couture range, as well as Prima Moda Brides owner Jean Pas' granddaughter, Paige-Louise Rawle.

Jean said the fayre proved "busy and successful" and special thanks went to Sarah McNulty and Angie Cullen from Creative Bridal Services.

Photos by GARY TANNER and SARAH MCNULTY PHOTOGRAPHY

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MP praises school for improved results of disadvantaged pupils

LOCAL MP David Laws has congratulated Neroche Primary School in Broadway, Ilminster, on improving their Key Stage 2 results for disadvantaged pupils who received pupil premium funding.

The Liberal Democrat MP for the Yeovil constituency and Minister of State for Schools wrote a letter to headteacher Connel Boyle congratulating the whole school.

The school's results show that pupils from lower income backgrounds have progressed significantly since 2011 and that attainment levels have improved considerably. In the 2014 SATs tests, Neroche children from disadvantaged backgrounds scored higher than the national average for all pupil groups for a third year running. The school is one of the best in England on this key measure.

The Liberal Democrats' pupil premium policy gives schools extra funding for every disadvantaged pupil, to help them achieve more at school. Primary schools receive an extra £1,300 per eligible pupil and can choose how best to spend that money.

Neroche receives an additional £20,000 in pupil premium funding and spends this money on a wide variety of initiatives designed to increase the attainment levels of pupils. These include funding additional teachers to support extra maths and literacy classes.

Mr Laws said: "Everybody at Neroche Primary School should be incredibly proud of these achievements, the school is giving pupils from all backgrounds a fantastic education and a great start in life. It is very difficult to overstate the importance of this success.

"The Liberal Democrats created the pupil premium so that we could tackle the shameful attainment gap which has existed in this country for far too long. It is frankly a disgrace that children's life chances are still dictated by their family backgrounds.

"The pupil premium gives schools the money they need to help all pupils achieve more, and Neroche Primary School is showing everyone what can be achieved with this extra investment."

Mr Boyle added: "For the school to have received this official recognition from the government and David Laws for our excellent support for pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds has really boosted our teachers' morale. Our school is an open and inclusive school. We simply do not accept that a child from a poorer background cannot achieve at the highest levels.

'The funding we receive through the pupil premium is absolutely vital for us to continue delivering the best educational package possible for our children. As a child I was myself in receipt of free school meals and had the advantage of attending super schools in a socially disadvantaged area. My own background drives my passion for doing the best possible for all our children."

Major drainage works to start

MAJOR drainage improvements which were delayed by rebuilding work at the Beacon, near Ilminster, are due to finally go ahead next week.

The work on the B3168 at Puckington is essential, and has been planned for some time, but had to be postponed last summer while the nearby Beacon was closed for nine months due to a significant landslip. The Beacon is on the recognised diversion route for this scheme.

The overall upgrade is scheduled to take six weeks, with work on the B3168 taking four weeks and work on the Stocklinch Lane junction due to last two weeks.

Councillor Harvey Siggs, Somerset County Council's Cabinet member for highways, said: "I am pleased that this scheme is finally able to take place. Everyone knows about the major rebuilding work which took place at the Beacon for large parts of last year and unfortunately one of the consequences of that was a delay to these essential improvements.

"We will be working hard to complete the work as quickly as possible, but we're aware there will be some disruption and I apologise for any inconvenience.

"We have been in discussion with local businesses and traders and additional signing, particularly for Barrington, Hambridge and Westport, will be provided on the official diversion route."

A local diversion for light vehicles only will also in operation during these works.

THE 1st Ilminster Scout Group is having its 100th birthday this year, and members started celebrations by planting daffodil bulbs at the town's recreation ground. Scout leaders cut the design of the fleur de lys scout emblem out of the grass before the youngsters planted the bulbs. A group spokesperson said: "We look forward to next year seeing them all bloom."

Local councillor gives talk to Thursday Group about career as hotel inspector

LOCAL charity fundraiser and councillor, Linda Vijeh, gave a talk entitled "Sleeping Around" to members of the Ilminster Thursday Group at the Warehouse Theatre.

The popular group, with over 150 members, meets every week at 10am to hear a variety of speakers as part of their programme of activities.

During her talk, Linda recounted her days as a hotel inspector, where she would sleep in over 250 beds a year covering the British Isles, and everything from small private bed and breakfast to world-renowned, five star hotels.

She stressed the importance of remaining objective, and although known for her critical opinion through her company Service Matters, she now prefers to provide advice and assistance to hotels to make sure that we all have a much more enjoyable stay.

Linda donated her fee of £50 to one of the many charities she supports, the Samaritans, and has already been asked if she will pay a return visit to talk about "Putting on the Pounds", her experiences as a restaurant inspector.

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Youth talents shine at Henhayes fourth Young People's Music Festival

FOR the fourth year running the Young People's Music Festival was held at The Henhayes Community Centre last Friday (February 6th) and was a happy success.

The youngsters who entered clearly enjoyed the event which was organised to provide a relaxed atmosphere which would help those who were getting butterflies to find the courage to play!

■ WINNERS | Front row - Rose Bradley most promising player under 11, Isla Torbet 11 – 15s, and Lisa Sharman 15 – 18. Back row from left: Alexandra Ennis professional observer, and handing out the prizes were sponsors Cllr. Andrea Stuart Deputy Mayor of Crewerne, Tricia Harris President Inner Wheel Club and Peter Hardwill President of Crewkerne Rotary Club. *Photographs by Dave Charnick*

A SHOWCASE OF NEW AND ORIGINAL FOLK TALENT

FLYING Folk is an evening of four separate performances by some of the finest up and coming folk talent from across the South West. This will be a memorable night of new faces and voices, exquisite musicianship, catchy melodies and original lyrics. The performers taking part are Hattie Briggs, Fusion, Lazibyrd and Louise Jordan.

Gloucestershire based singer-songwriter Hattie was a BBC Radio 2 Young Folk Award Nominee 2014. It's been just a year since she quit Oxford University to concentrate on her musical career and since then her music has been seldom been off the airwaves.

Fusion comprises Jane Norman and her guitarist husband Chris. Violinist Jane is a principle member of the London Baroque Ensemble but for Flying Folk she and Chris will be playing an eclectic mix of folk and covers, together with one or two of their own compositions.

Lazibyrd are Sharon Martin and Tom Chapman, and this Somerset based band play original songs of love, loss and protest. Their well-crafted songs have a big sound - a skillful combination of voices, guitar, violin, viola and ukelele. Their debut album, Under the Sky, is gaining critical acclaim.

Louise plays guitar, piano and cello but it is her captivating voice which is most often celebrated as her trademark sound. She combines award winning song-writing with a classical sensibility to create original compositions. She has has been described as "Absolutely, totally and completely, brilliant" by BBC Radio 2's Mike Harding.

Flying Folk: Four Ine One comes to Ilminster Arts Centre next Friday, February 20th at 8pm. Tickets are £10 available from www.themeetinghouse.org.uk or by calling 01460 54973.

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Diary Dates

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 13TH

CREWKERNE: Sequence Dancing at the Victoria Hall, 1.45-4pm. £2pp includes teas and biscuits. Raffle. For more details call 01308 862866 or 01935 415520

CLAPTON: Clapton & Wayford Village Hall - lunch club, mid-day for 12.30pm start. All welcome, but please book in advance – by phoning 01460 77057.

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 14TH

HINTON ST GEORGE: Hinton St. George 'Flix in the Sticks' presents 'A Most Wanted Man' (15), in the Village Hall at 7.30 pm. Tickets £5 in advance from the Village Shop and Dorothy's Tea Room, or, £5.50p on the door. To reserve Tickets please contact Bob Kefford on 01460 72563.

MERRIOTT: Karaoke night at Merriott Social Club at 8pm. Come and sing to your sweetheart, open to non members.

MONDAY FEBRUARY 16TH

CREWKERNE: Crewkerne Awareness February Meeting. Guest Speaker: David Wallace on 'Soul Re-Alignment'. At the Meeting Room, Unitarian Chapel, Crewkerne. 7pm-9.30pm. Admission £2.50 (Includes Light Refreshments). Everyone Welcome. For more details call 01460 351019.

CHARD: Chard, Ilminster &District U3A invites anyone who has retired from full time employment to come to Chard Guildhall at 2 pm for a cup of tea/coffee and biscuits and hear Clem Pryer talk about 'Watercolours – a talk about Riverboat Art'.

CREWKERNE: Bridge for beginners and improvers starts at 2pm at Henhayes Centre. Please phone 01460 74340 if you would like to attend.

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 17TH

CREWKERNE: Bingo at George Reynolds Sports Centre. Doors open 6.30pm, eyes down 7.30pm. In aid of Crewkerne Football Club.

CREWKERNE: Tuesday Welcome Group £1 per session at Henhayes Centre. For people 70/80+ who like to meet other people and enjoy a few activities like painting, pottery, music, quizzes and occasional bingo. Transport can be arranged and a cooked meal can be purchased from £3.50. Take-away meals are available.

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 18TH

CLAPTON: Clapton & Wayford Village Hall - Coffee Morning with Raffle and Bring & Buy stall. From 10.30am. All are welcome; please come along to meet friends, neighbours & visitors for a social morning. Contributions welcome; details from Jane (01460 77588)

CREWKERNE: Bingo – Cash prizes – "eyes down" at 2.30pm at Henhayes Centre

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 19TH

CHARD: Chard Camera Club will be meeting at the Baptist church hall at 7.30pm for an in house competition evening where members will be competing against each other for the 'Presidents Portfolio' which comprises of three images on a theme or subject. Anyone wishing to go along for the evening will be made most welcome and they can find
further information on the club by contacting the club's membership secretary Mr Peter Partridge 01460 66885 or by visiting their website chardcameraclub.org.uk

SEAVINGTON ST MARY: South Somerset Local RSPB Group. Talk 'The Wildlife and Sites of Southern Brazil', by Field Trip Organisers Lynn and Steve Osborne. At the Millennium Hall, 7.30pm. Entry, includes tea and biscuits: £2.50 for group members, £3.50 for non-group members and under 18s free. All welcome. For more details call 01460 240740.

CREWKERNE: Folk Dancing at St Bartholomew's Church Hall, Abbey Street. Every Thursday, 8-10pm. Beginners welcome. For more details call 01460 77320 / 72505

CREWKERNE: Over 50s Keep Fit at Henhayes Centre. Class begins at 10am and costs £2.50 for members and £3.50 for non-members.

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 20TH

CREWKERNE: Sequence Dancing at the Victoria Hall, 1.45-4pm. £2pp includes teas and biscuits. Raffle. For more details call 01308 862866 or 01935 415520

TATWORTH: Film: 'What We Did On Our Holiday' (cert 12A), at Tatworth Memorial Hall, doors 7.15pm, film 8pm. Organised by T&F Movies. For more details call 01460 220198.

DONYATT: Bingo Night at Donyatt Village Hall. Doors open 6.45pm, eyes down 7.30pm. Each book of 10 games - £1. Two flyers at £1 each. Prizes for Line and Full House. Raffle. Light refreshments available. Why not make a party of it? Bring friends, nibbles and a drink. To book a table ring 01460 53861/52129. Organised by Hall Comittee. Proceeds to the Village Hall Improvement Fund.

SOUTH PERROTT: Family Bingo at South Perrott Village Hall (A356). Doors 6pm, eyes down 6.30pm. In aid of church funds.

CREWKERNE: Concert – Karen Pitt Quintet at Henhayes Centre. Please phone 01460 74340 for tickets and further details.

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 21ST

MERRIOTT: Merriott social Club live music by "Stand Alone Empire", back by popular demand, from 9pm. Open to non members, children also welcome.

WHITELACKINGTON: A wide variety of stalls selling bric-a-brac to new items. At the village hall, 10am-1pm. Charity number 246963. Free entry

SEAVINGTON ST MARY: Smokestack CMC dance, with West Country. £6 on the door. BYO drinks. Free tea/coffee. Everyone welcome. In aid of Childrens Hospice South West.

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 26TH

CREWKERNE: Folk Dancing at St Bartholomew's Church Hall, Abbey Street. Every Thursday, 8-10pm. Beginners welcome. For more details call 01460 77320 / 72505

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 27TH

CREWKERNE: Sequence Dancing at the Victoria Hall, 1.45-4pm. £2pp includes teas and biscuits. Raffle. For more details call 01308 862866 or 01935 415520

CREWKERNE: Special Hungarian lunch at Henhayes Centre. Please phone 01460 74340 for further information and to reserve your place.

ILMINSTER: "Introduced species: increased Biodiversity or Conservation nightmare?" Dr Colin Ryall's illustrated presentation will review the global context of invasive plants and animals then focus on the present situation in UK and Europe, and suggest future prospects. Refreshments available. Everyone welcome. Adult members £2, non-members £3. Parish Hall, North St. Ilminster TA19 0DG

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 28TH

CREWKERNE: Annual Prize Bingo in aid of ZEM CC. Crowshute House. Doors 6.30pm, Eyes down 7.15pm. Three prizes per house, mammouth Raffle, refreshments. For more details call 01460 62842

THURSDAY MARCH 5TH

CREWKERNE: Folk Dancing at St Bartholomew's Church Hall, Abbey Street. Every Thursday, 8-10pm. Beginners welcome. For more details call 01460 77320 / 72505

CHARD: Chard Camera Club will be holding their AGM at 7.30pm in the Baptist Church Hall. Any person interested in contacting the club is most willing to do so by contacting Mr Peter Partridge on 01460 66885 or by visiting their website www.chardcamersclub.org.uk

FRIDAY MARCH 6TH

CREWKERNE: Sequence Dancing at the Victoria Hall, 1.45-4pm. £2pp includes teas and biscuits. Raffle. For more details call 01308 862866 or 01935 415520

FRIDAY MARCH 6TH - MONDAY MARCH 9TH

CHARD: Members of the Chard Royal Naval Association will be attending the 40th Anniversary Reunion of the Area 4 Royal Naval Association at Bideford. Contact with Chard branch can be made via the Secretary Mr Gary Pennells on 01460 77978, chairman Paula Moon 01460 929041 or by visiting the royal-naval-association.com.uk website.

SATURDAY MARCH 7TH

SEAVINGTON ST MARY: Rockin 60s Band playing at the Millennium Hall. Tickets only, £7 each from Carol on 01935 881510. No bar, bring your own drinks and nibbles. Free tea/coffee. In aid of Children's Hospice South West. Doors 7pm for 8pm start.

NORTON-SUB-HAMDON: Spring Jumble Sale in the Village Hall (TA146SF) at 11am. Admission 30p. All usual stalls Clothes, New and nearly new, bric-a-brac books,toys, Teas and much more. Everyone welcome. Come and pick up some bargains. More information, contact Jennie Harris. 01935 881718.

MERRIOTT: Popular group "Livewired" are playing live from 9pm at Merriott Social Club. Free event, open to non members.

CHARD: Popular Fayre at Chard Guildhall, 9am-12.30pm.

Fantasy flappy half term fun at the Arts Centre

ILMINSTER Arts Centre will host fun half-term workshop led by Richard Godden on Wednesday, February 18th.

Participants will learn how to create their own fantasy bird from recycled materials and coloured tissue paper.

This workshop is for children aged 6 and upwards. Children under 8 must be accompanied by an adult.

All materials will be supplied. The price for this workshop is £5 per child. Dress for mess!

The workshop takes place on Wednesday, February 18th from 10am-12noon.

Places are limited and must be booked in advance with the Arts Centre on 01460 54973.

CINEMA LISTINGS

Friday, Feb 13th - Wednesday, Feb 19th

ALL LISTINGS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

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Big Hero 6 PG
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plus Sat-Thu: 11.00, 11.40am

Kingsman: The Secret Service 15
Daily: 14.20, 17.20, 20.30
plus Sat-Thu: 11.20am

Shaun The Sheep The Movie U
Fri: 12.10, 13.50, 14.30, 16.10, 16.50, 18.30
Sat: 10.40, 11.30, 125.50, 13.50, 15.10, 16.10, 17.30, 18.30
Sun-Thu: 11.30, 12.10, 13.50, 14.30,1 6.10, 16.50, 18.30

Fifty Shades of Grey 18
Fri: 12.30, 13.30, 15.15, 16.40, 18.00, 19.00, 19.45, 20.15, 20.45, 20.50, 22.00
Sat-Thu: 10.30, 12.30, 13.30, 15.15, 16.40, 18.00, 19.00, 19.45, 20.15, 20.45

The Interview 15
Fri, Sun-Thu: 21.00, Sat: 22.00

Selma 12A
Fri, Mon-Thu: 19.15, Sun: 17.50, 20.50

American Sniper 15
Fri: 13.20, 16.30, 19.30
Sat: 17.50, 21.00
Sun-Thu: 16.30, 19.30

The Book Of Life U
Sat-Thu: 10.00, 10.10am

Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day PG
Sun-Thu: 10.00am

The Boxtrolls PG Sat-Thu: 10.05am

The Theory of Everything PG
Fri, Mon-Thu: 17.50, Sun: 19.15

Peppa Pig: The Golden Boots U
Sat-Thu: 10.00, 11.30, 13.00, 14.40

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Fifty Shades of Grey 18
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plus Fri: 12.00, 22.00, 22.15, 22.45, 23.00
plus Sat: 11.00, 20.45, 22.00
plus Mo, Thun: 11.00am
plus Tue: 11.00, 19.00, 20.45, 22.00, 22.15
plus Wed: 11.00, 19.00, 20.45, 22.00, 22.15

Jupiter Ascending 2D 12A
Daily: 15.00, 18.00
plus Mon, Thu: 21.10

Kingsman: The Secret Service 15
Fri: 14.00, 17.15, 20.30
Sat: 17.00, 20.00, 21.30
Sun: 15.30, 17.15, 18.20, 21.10
Mon-Thu: 15.00, 18.00, 21.00

Paddington PG
Sat & Sun: 12.40

Peppa Pig: The Golden Boots U
Sat: 10.10, 11.45, 13.20, 15.00
Sun: 10.10, 11.45
Mon-Thu: 10.10, 11.45, 13.20

Project Almanac 12A
Mon-Thu: 12.30, 17.30

Shaun The Sheep U
Daily: 10.50, 11.50, 13.00, 14.00, 15.10, 16.10, 18.15

The Book Of Life U
Sat-Thu: 10.30am

The Penguins of Madagascar U
Sun-Thu: 10.00am

The Theory of Everything 12A
Fri-Tue: 17.10, 20.20
plus Fri, Mon: 12.40
Wed & Thu: 20.00

This week's new cinema releases

FIFTY SHADES OF GREY 18

LITERATURE student Anastasia Steele's life changes forever when she meets handsome, yet tormented, billionaire Christian Grey.

Big screen adaptation of the raunchy best-selling book, starring Dakota Johnson, Jamie Dornan and Jennifer Ehle.

STRANGE MAGIC PG

MAD-CAP fairy tale musical, featuring goblins, elves, fairies and imps, and following their misadventures sparked by the battle over a powerful potion.

Animated family fun with voices from Evan Rachel Wood, Elijah Kelley and Kristin Chenoweth.

LOVE IS STRANGE 15

AFTER Ben and George get married, George is fired from his teaching post, forcing them to stay with friends separately while they sell their place and look for cheaper housing - a situation that weighs heavily on all involved.

Stars John Lithgow, Alfred Molina and Marisa Tomei.

TWO NIGHT STAND 15

A SNOWSTORM forces two people who made an online connection to unwillingly extend their one-night stand as the blizzard goes through the night.

Stars Miles Teller, Analeigh Tipton and Jessica Szohr.

DOWN DOG 15

FROM the writer of Men Behaving Badly. A high flying sex addict tries to connect with his teenage son by teaching him how to get the girl he likes. But soon he discovers that in his world nothing is what it seems.

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Renault Expands Megane Sport Range

RENAULT has expanded its range of multi-award-winning performance models with the introduction of GT 220 versions of the Mégane Hatch, Coupé and Sport Tourer. Powered by a 220 hp version of the Renaultsport 2.0-litre turbo engine and featuring a Renaultsport-engineered chassis and 18-inch 'Serdard' alloy wheels, these new entry-level models to the world of Mégane performance driving continue to make Renaultsport technology more accessible than ever before.

The GT 220 is based on the Megane GT Line TomTom, but delivers up to twice as much horsepower and has even more dynamic driving characteristics thanks to stiffer springs and dampers and larger front brake discs from Renaultsport. The 8- x 18-inch 'Serdard' alloy wheels are fitted with 225/40R18 Dunlop Sport Maxx TT tyres.

The 2.0-litre 16-valve turbocharged engine develops its 220 hp at 4,750 rpm and drives the front wheels through a slick-shifting six-speed manual transmission. With 340 Nm of torque at 2,400 rpm at the driver's disposal, the GT 220 can accelerate from 0-62 mph in just 7.6 seconds on the way to a top speed of 149 mph. Yet with Renault's Stop & Start technology as standard, the GT 220 is also economical and efficient, returning 38.7 mpg on the combined test cycle, with CO_2 emissions of 169 g/km.

The Renaultsport-tuned chassis on the GT 220 includes specific front and rear dampers that use the calibration and valving based on those used on Mégane Renaultsport. From its more powerful sibling, the GT 220 also uses the same rear bump stops. The steering calibration differs to that of the mainstream Mégane to take into account the GT 220 versions' specific tyres and chassis settings.

Braking performance is provided by ventilated 320 mm front discs (up from 280 mm on GT Line) and 260 mm solid rear brake discs together with firmer, more progressive servo-assistance thanks to the fitment of the Mégane Renaultsport's master cylinder. The GT 220 also features Renault's Anti-Skid Regulation (ASR) and Understeer Logic Control (UCL) advanced driver aid systems, plus ABS anti-lock brakes with EBD emergency brake assist.

The appearance, specification and colour choices for the GT 220 mirror what is available with the GT Line models, includingthe option of bespoke Malta Blue paintwork with anthracite grey and polished detailing. The door mirror housings are in dark chrome shell.

At the front there is a special GT bumper design, with a reshaped central air intake and an integral gloss black cross bar that carries the number plate. At the rear, the bumper has a lower section finished in body colour, which incorporates an anthracite-coloured aerodynamic diffuser.

▲ Renault Mégane GT 220 Coupé

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The New Bmw 2 Series Gran Tourer

THE new BMW 2 Series Gran Tourer is the first premium compact model to offer up to seven seats and fully meet the mobility requirements of young families. Compact exterior dimensions go hand in hand with tremendous flexibility on the inside: a sliding second row of seats with adjustable backrest, a third row of seats that fold into the floor, and provision for up to five universal child seats are just some of the features on offer.

The new BMW 2 Series Gran Tourer is available with a choice of five turbocharged petrol and diesel engines, all sourced from BMW's latest engine family. With either three or four-cylinders, these advanced powerplants offer superb efficiency and, in the case of the 220i and 220d, a 0-62mph time as low as 7.8 seconds. The 220d xDrive is also the only car in its class to team four-wheel drive with seven-seat capability.

With the latest EfficientDynamics and ConnectedDrive technologies, the new 2 Series Gran Tourer takes advantage of BMW's lead in driver safety, energy-saving and connectivity features. And thanks to its typically BMW-like sporting dynamics, it fuses its inherent practicality with genuine driver entertainment, thereby creating a uniquely appealing package.

The first premium compact car to offer up to seven seats.

The new BMW 2 Series Gran Tourer possesses compact dimensions of just 4,556mm x 1,800mm x 1,612mm (L x W x H), sharing its advanced front-wheel-drive architecture - including the transversely mounted engines - with the BMW 2 Series Active Tourer. However, it comfortably accommodates up to seven people, while simultaneously offering a generous load compartment that extends and from 560- to 1,820-litres.

The Gran Tourer is 214mm longer and 53mm higher than the BMW 2 Series Active Tourer, but a longer wheelbase of 2,780mm provides a further significant increase in space inside the vehicle. The higher roofline allows occupants to sit tall and upright, affording excellent all-round vision, as well as aiding ingress and egress. Legroom, particularly in the rear, is comparable with that of many luxury cars. Three universal child seats can be mounted in the second row, and a further two universal child seats can be fitted in the third row.

By sliding the rear seat fore or aft by 130mm, either load capacity or second row knee-room can be prioritised. The backrest can also be adjusted to enhance comfort in the three rear seats or to create extra luggage space. If maximum stowage space is required, the 40:20:40-split rear seat backrest can be remotely unlocked by pressing a button in the boot, then folded down to create an almost level cargo floor. The front passenger backrest can also be lowered to allow long objects such as sports equipment up to 2.60m in length to be transported. Access to the load compartment couldn't be easier thanks to the large, broad and wide-opening tailgate, which can be opened and closed automatically by push button operation or, optionally, touch-free via a sensor below the rear bumper.

Useful features abound in the BMW 2 Series Gran Tourer. There are also lashing points in the load bay and "monorails" on the backrests of the front seats, allowing a folding table to be attached. Much thought has gone into providing numerous storage compartments and space, including room for 1.5-litre bottles in each door panel. Further travel items, such as children's toys, can be stowed away in the hinged compartments under the front or second row seats.

The new BMW 2 Series Gran Tourer comes as standard in the UK with third row seats offering generous space for two additonal passengers. A non-slip step in the rear door opening aids access in conjunction with the folding and sliding second row of seats (Easy Entry). If the extra passenger seats are not required, the third row can be completely lowered into the load area floor to save space. The loading surface remains almost level and the storage space – barring the multifunction tray – remains unchanged. Third row passengers also benefit from a special centre console with two cupholders, a storage compartment and a 12-volt socket.

▲ The new BMW 2 Series Gran Tourer

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Weekender sport

Send your reports, results and tables to howard@pemedia.co.uk or call 01297 446152 (deadline: Wednesday 10am)

rugby round up

BY GLYN HUGHES

Depleted 2nds left to rue lack of numbers

CHARD P BOURNEMOUTH P
National League Three (sw)

LAST SATURDAY'S game was postponed because the frost still in the pitch left it unfit for play. The two teams will try again tomorrow (2pm ko).

CASTLE CARY 1st xv 22
CHARD 2nd xv 12
Somerset Division One

CHARD travelled to this game with only the bare 15 players and, as often happens in this situation, they soon suffered an injury and played a man short for a long period.

In a close competitive match this can be the deciding factor and so it proved.

Harry Miller scored a try for Chard and this was followed by a penalty try awarded because Cary could only stop a dominant Chard pack with some illegal play.

Sam Mouland converted one from his two attempts.

The Chard 2nd xv are a young side, led by stalwart Brian Sugar, who have really picked up in recent weeks so hopefully this will just be a blip.

FROME 3rds 47 CHARD 3rds 7
Somerset Division 3 south

DESPITE being well beaten by league leaders Frome this was a really enjoyable encounter and Chard gave four of their promising colts team a run out in a senior side.

The four lads Warren Lewis, Ben Mainwaring, Nev Larcombe and Dan Newman all had excellent games and showed a lot of promise.

Full back Michael Burden scored the Chard try when he made a lovely run from just inside his own half. Lee Brun added the conversion points.

The main difference between the sides was the powerful running of the home three quarters.

There are no games tomorrow for the 2nd and 3rd xv but a Chard vets xv is due to play against Dorchester vets kicking off at 1pm at Crewkerne Road.

Nat League 3 SW	Pld	+/-	Pts
Redingsensians	19	404	78
Exmouth	19	294	75
Brixham	19	65	62
Bracknell	18	127	56
Hornets	16	107	51
Old Centralians	17	34	50
Newton Abbot	19	12	49
Barnstaple	19	-53	35
Bournemouth	18	-100	34
Old Patesians	16	-117	33
Old Redcliffians	17	-111	32
Oxford Harlequins	18	-108	31
Weston-super-Mare	19	-186	17
CHARD	18	-368	7

Somerset One	Pld	+/-	Pts
Hornets II	18	473	84
Chew Valley II	19	544	83
Bridgwater & Alb II	19	296	67
Bristol Barbarians	18	218	62
Castle Cary	19	48	58
CREWKERNE	19	159	52
Old Sulians	18	67	47
Keynsham II	19	-98	36
CHARD II	19	-175	34
Yatton II	19	-419	28
Wellington II	18	-168	25
Cheddar Valley	19	-105	23
North Petherton II	19	-183	21
Midsomer Norton II	19	-657	7

Somerset Three	Pld	+/-	Pts
Frome III	13	326	63
MARTOCK	13	320	52
Yatton III	12	185	45
North Petherton III	13	403	41
Wells III	13	119	36
CREWKERNE II	12	-71	18
Minehead Barbars III	13	-476	10
CHARD III	13	-241	1
Castle Cary II	13	-318	-2
Midsomer Norton IV	13	-247	-13

skittles

CREWKERNE

Division One	Pld	Pts
Lost Boys	14	131
Super Sexy Six	14	108
Coachmen	14	100
Head Hunters	14	96
King Willy Dogs	14	90
Stray Cats	14	87
Royal Oak Drimpton	13	81
Football Club	14	79
Mighty Ducks	14	74
Rollers	13	55
Raptors	14	50
Perrott Monkeys	14	39

Division Two	Pld	Pts
Brewers Bees	13	99
Fryers	13	98
Loud n Proud	12	90
Acorns	13	87
Rug Rats	13	77
Chis Colts	13	76
Fudders	12	72
Concorde	12	60
Skimmers	13	56
Muppets	12	47
Merriott Fixers	12	42

Division Three	Pld	Pts
Pinbusters	14	131
Hill Billies	14	128
Sports 92	14	112
Oakley Doakleys	14	107
Sandbaggers	14	91
Beer Leg Boys	14	85
Willy Low Flyers	14	80
No Name Yet	14	72
Ugly Ducklings	14	66
Likely Lads	14	54
Rotary	14	46
Kings Men	14	33

ILMINSTER

RESULTS; **Division One** - Rockey's Rollers 329-8 (R.Findlay 49) Royal Oak Faces 321-4, Crown Crusaders 408-1 (R.Sims 66) Flyings Turkeys 434-11 (M.Williams 65), Flying Turkeys AllStars 420-12 (D.Dabinett 68) Ashill BOys 337-0 (D.Sutton 46).

Division One	Pld	Pts
Flying Turkeys	10	95
Rockey's Rollers	10	76
Crown Crusaders	10	72
Flying Turkeys AS	9	70
Royal Oak Faces	10	60
Ashill Inn	9	50
Ashill Boys	10	41
Bell A	9	33
Crown Royals	9	19

Division Two - Bell Broadway 328-10 (P.Lavis 47) Hatch Eggs 314-2 (G.Knoght 46), Ilton Choppers 335-3 (C.Hilton 47) Nomads 356-9 (I.Miller 51), Wyndham Warriors 330-10 (G.Grocott 52) Wyndham Clangers 318-2 (R.Yeadon 45), Hatch Beagles 374-10 (A.Stone 58) Cricketers 361-2 (T.Crawley 52), Nomads 357-9 (J.Thomas 52) Bell Broadway 345-3 (P.Lavis 52).

Division Two	Pld	Pts
Nomads	11	99
Hatch Beagles	11	97
Bell Broadway	11	84
Cricketers	10	81
Wyndham Warr	10	55
Ilton Choppers	10	43
Wyndham Clang	10	38
King's Head	10	37
Hatch Eggs	9	18

angling

ilminster aa

Morgan double

ILMINSTER AA held their annual open on the Isle last Sunday with 15 members fishing.

The Hambridge section was used for the first time this season and produced some brilliant nets of fish and accounted for the top four on the day.

Baz Morgan drew the first peg below the bridge and caught mainly roach for a staggering 29lb 6oz to win his second match on the trot.

Paul Homewood was second from the swim above the bridge with 20lb 13oz of roach on the whip and maggot.

Andy Welch was the peg above Paul and also had a lovely day's fishing catching chub, perch and roach on the stick float for 16lb 11oz.

Jamie Rich completed the frame with seven chub and a few roach for 13lb on the pole and maggot from peg H3.

The last match of the Royal Oak League is on Sunday and the draw is at the pub between 8.30 and 9am.

Result; 1 - Baz Morgan (Baz Angling) – 29lb 6oz, 2 – Paul Homewood (Taunton) – 20lb 13oz, 3 – Andy Welch (Ilm) – 16lb 11oz, 4 – Jamie Rich (Against Men and Fish/Burt Baits) – 13lb

Sections; A – Jake Woodard (Ilm) – 7lb 8oz, **B** – Steve Hurford (Ilm 12lb 4oz

schools sport rugby

More district titles for rugby kings Holyrood

Holyrood 53 Huish Episcopi 10
Year 8 - February 4th

HOLYROOD Academy has produced its third District Championship Rugby Team of 2015.

The Year eights put in an outstanding performance at Chard Rugby Club in very cold conditions to outscore Huish Episcopi by nine tries to two with Bruno Ornelas, Lewis Singleton and Reece Lewis all in fine form.

But it was Man-of-the-Match Oliver Klimpke who shone with six tries to his name. Aaron Richards added to the winning points tally by successfully landing four conversions.

Holyrood try scorers - Oliver Klimpke (6), Jack Dickenson, Oscar Smith, Reece Lewis.

Holyrood 20 Huish Episcopi 10
Year 9 - February 4th

A SOLID performance from Holyrood's Year 9 team clinched the district title in a very competitive game that was closely matched.

Holyrood's Man of the Match was undoubtedly Zac Stabbins for great ball carrying throughout the game and for scoring the try that sealed the win.

However, the game could have gone the other way had Oliver Lenthall not made a match-winning tackle when the score was 10-10.

Holyrood's four try scorers were; Zac Stabbins (2), Henry Taswell and Niall Crouch.

◆ OUTSTANDING: Pictured below the star performers in the Cup Final victories - (left) Oliver Glimpe and Zac Sabbins.

Holyrood hosts primary tag rugby competition

HOLYROOD Academy recently teamed up with Chard Rugby Club to offer local primary schools the chance to take part in a Tag Rugby Tournament.

The rugby club hosted the event and children were able to play on the main pitch while being officiated by Holyrood students and Chard RFC coaches.

Teams from Ashill, Avishayes, Chard, Combe, Manor Court, Hawkchurch and Redstart contested the event; meaning over 70 children were involved – making for a great spectacle which was supported by a large crowd of friends and family members.

All participants were congratulated at the end for putting on a great display of junior rugby on what was a bitterly cold afternoon.

The eventual winners in this year 3-4 competition were Redstart, with Combe St Nicholas finishing as close runners-up.

enthusiasm

School sports co-ordinator, Jason Hedaux, would like to thank Chard Rugby Club for their enthusiasm and hospitality and welcomes the community links made between schools and community clubs.

He said: "These links greatly help schools to deliver the competitive nature of sport for our children."

jack high bowls news

ILMINSTER *by Des Maull*

LAST Saturday Ilminster ladies travelled to CLARRIE DUNBAR BC in the Optika Trophy.

This was a very competitive match with Ilminster winning one rink and losing two, one of them by just one shot but losing overall by two points to one.

Details: 4 wood pairs - Heather Grinter & Maureen Mitchell 19 A Jones 14; 3 wood triples - Sarah Lightfoot, Sue Spurway & Angie Thompson 16 M Hartley 17; 4s, Myra Childs, Jill Parker, Dot Whelan & June Checketts 14 K Smith 18.

The Area Final of the National Triples was played at Ilminster the following day with Will Anderson, Bev Brister & Steve Turner playing a triple from TAUNTON DEANE who included Rob Paxton the current World no 2 and also Men's Pairs and Mixed pairs World Champion.

Paxton was supported by Matt Hamilton and James Amery.

After nearly four hours and some excellent bowling from all the players the game changed on the 16th end with Ilminster dropping a count of three which they could not recover finally losing by five shots (16 - 11)

Also on Sunday, Ilminster welcomed CHARDSTOCK for a three-rink mixed friendly.

Ilminster proved too strong winning two of the three rinks and by 74 shots to 42.

Details: Des Maull, John Wells, Jill Parker & Roger Lench 38 B Sluman 10; P Bromfield, Gary Riste, Jill Wells & Ken Parker 20 P Compton 11; Jim Howells, Bill Bailey, Mike King & Peter Patmore 16 R McDonald 21.

CHARD *by Sandra Sumpter*

THERE was only one match played in this week's Milford & Dormor Mixed Triples League as the scheduled game between Magpies and Royals had to be cancelled due to illness and will be played at a later date.

Greyhounds took on Harlequins. Harlequins started strongly taking an 8-0 lead in the first few ends. Greyhounds then fought back to win the next five ends to bring the score back to 8-6.

This gave Harlequins quite a scare but they held their nerve in a tense game to eventually win 12-7.

Saturday saw the annual challenge between the Short Mat players and the outdoor Flat Green bowlers.

Last year the short mat players suffered a surprise defeat and were determined to correct the situation this year.

Four games of triples were played and the short mat bowlers took three of them.

The outdoor players were having a little difficulty adjusting their weight to the shorter distance.

The outdoor bowlers intend to get their own back in the match played outdoors in the summer.

M & D League	Pd	+/-	Pts
Harlequins	13	89	23
Royals	12	43	17
Magpies	12	-11	11
Greyhounds	14	-72	8
Hurricanes	13	-49	5

LOCAL FOOTBALL ROUND UP

with Howard Larcombe

twitter @HowardLarcombe

Victory keeps Ilminster alive and kicking

Double figure scores continue to mount in PSDL - Deadly Dare hits seven

Corsham 1 Chard Town 2

Toolstation Division One - att; 49

CHARD Town's excellent recent away form continued with a gritty 2-1 win at Corsham Town on Wednesday evening.

The victory takes their points haul to seven points from nine from their last three road trips.

The first-half was largely devoid of chances before Sam Ockwell put the hosts ahead with a fine 25-yard free-kick.

The Robins were forced into a change just before the interval with Ed Butcher replacing the injured Braeden Symes. And Butcher was to have a big say in the outcome of the game.

Chard manager Adam Fricker was forced to shuffle his pack again during the break with Jamie Underwood on for top-scorer Sam Clark.

The second-half was much more open. Scott Holland went close to levelling for the Robins when he had a header blocked on the line.

At the other end the hosts were guilty of failing to convert three good chances to double the lead – the last of which forced a superb point-blank stop from Chard keeper Jason Hutchings.

But it was the visitors who finished the game the stronger.

Butcher was twice denied by home gloveman Ed Salsbury before Leigh Bailey had a header hacked off the line.

Chard deservedly equalised courtesy of an own goal from a corner before the pivotal moment of the match ten minutes from time.

Butcher burst through the home defence before being carved down. The guilty Corsham defender was dismissed by referee Fearnly who had no hesitation in pointing to the spot.

With regular penalty taker Clark off the field, Butcher dusted himself before stepping up to send Salsbury the wrong way to clinch the win.

Chard; *J.Hutchings, B.Haines (J.Barfoot 80), D.Hutchings, Sh Wells-Burr, L.Bailey, M.McCormack, A.Martin, B.Symes (E.Butcher 38), G.Chlopecki, S.Clark (J.Underwood 45), S.Holland.*

With the Robins second-string's rearranged county cup-tie taking preference, Chard's scheduled visit by Roman Glass tomorrow has been postponed.

The team are next in action on Wednesday with bottom of the table Portishead Town the visitors to the Lane (7.45ko).

SOMERSET SENIOR CUP (last 16)

CHARD Town Reserves' scheduled visit by Dundry Athletic was postponed. The two teams will try again at Zembard Lane tomorrow (1.45ko).

SOMERSET LEAGUE

FIRST-HALF strikes from Ash Lock and Alex Paul eared ILMINSTER TOWN three welcome points from last Saturday's visit by Minehead.

Luke Bloys pulled one back for the visitors but the Blues saw out the win which lifts them up a place to 15th in the Premier Division table.

But with all of the teams around them also picking up points, Ilminster will need to continue their momentum into tomorrow's visit by drop rivals Stockwood Green (2.30ko).

Down in Division Two (west) a fourth consecutive clean sheet keeps leaders COMBE ST NICHOLAS firmly on the title track after a 2-0 win at Uphill Castle. Dan Collins and Joe Simmons netted for the Saints who visit lowly Churchill Club tomorrow.

DEVON & EXETER LEAGUE

A SECOND-HALF collapse leaves ILMINSTER TOWN RESERVES firmly rooted in bottom two in Division Five after a 6-1 reverse at Honiton Town Res.

The Blues, depleted by unavailability and injury, conceded early on but a Darren Paul strike had them level at the interval. But the second-half was one-way traffic as the hosts cruised to victory.

PERRY STREET LEAGUE
Knock out cups
Challenge Cup QF
Crewkerne Town 5 Beaminster 2

THE repeat of last year's final ended in the same conclusion as Crewkerne Town extended their winning run to seven matches.

Jamie Spurdle opened the scoring in the fifth minute with a trademark free-kick.

But the visitors responded well and drew level through Gary Corry who rounded off a good team move with a fine finish.

This only served to inspire the Tigers who stormed into a 4-1 half-time lead with Spurdle completing his hat-trick and Adam Dawe also getting in on the act.

The second-half was a scrappy affair as the Unity Lane Ground surface deteriorated.

Liam Riste bagged his 15th of the season before Richie Runyard scored Beaminster a late consolation.

"We enjoyed the majority of possession in the second-half - but Spurdle was the difference," said Beaminster manager Dean Newman.

Ilminster Colts 0 Combe Res 12

CREWKERNE'S opponents in the semi-final will be Combe Reserves who crushed struggling Ilminster Town Colts who shipped a round dozen.

The Saints led 2-0 at half-time but really went to town after the interval. The goals were shared between Craig Every (3), Steve Every (3), Wayne Long (2), Stuart Bicknell, Tom Shire, Neil Parsons and Wayne Behan.

Ilminster have now conceded 119 goals in their 18 matches this season

Shepton Beauchamp 4
Lyme Regis Reserves 1

WITH the Chard Hospital and Coronation Cups already won, Shepton Beauchamp remain on course for a KO cup treble after coming from behind to beat Lyme Regis Reserves.

Both sides struggled to come to terms with a poor surface that was heavily rutted by tractor tyre tread marks and still frozen in places.

The Seasiders broke the deadlock in the 39th minute when Sam Bevis converted at the far post.

The hosts levelled two minutes later. Lyme's Mark Batey won a crunching tackle in the area only for the ball to squirt out to straight Dan Smith who made no mistake from close range.

Shepton, with Aaron Sweet and Dan Peach in fine form, took the lead in the 47th minute when Kris Hastings bundled the ball home.

A defensive error saw the hosts' ease 3-1 ahead on the hour through Smith who then completed his hat-trick after coolly rounding keeper Toby Fowler.

South Petherton 2
West & Middle Chinnock 0

IN ALL their recent years of success in the PSDL the Challenge Cup has eluded South Petherton, but this may just be the year The Magpies swoop to triumph in the competition.

A tight first-half of few clear-cut chances ended goal less but Stuart Witt finally broke the deadlock 10 minutes after the turnaround.

Danny Rendell then headed against the bar and Rich Hebditch also went close before Jamie Underwood clinched the win five minutes from time with a crisp 12-yard shot.

◆ **Semi-finals (March 7th);**
South Petherton v Shepton Beau
Crewkerne Town v Combe Res

Arthur Gage Cup R1

AMAZIINGLY both Arthur Gage quarter-finals ended in identical 12-0 score lines!

Dan Rendell, John Kingston and Tom Franklin all scored hat-tricks as Netherbury mauled floundering Farway United 12-0.

At the same time Guy Dare scored five times in the second-half as Barrington inflicted a club record defeat on Luso-Chard.

Dare finished with seven with Andy Whitefield bagging a hat-trick and Paul Oliver and Tom Perry joining in on the carnage which took Barrington through the 100 goal-mark for the season.

◆ **Quarter-finals (Feb 28th);**
Netherbury v Barrington
Chard Utd v Forton Rangers
Lyme Regis Bantams v Millwey Rise
Winsham Utd v Pymore.

■ THESE results, plus Combe Reserves' crushing win over Ilminster Colts, takes this season's tally - so far - to 17 double figure score lines – the highest for many years.

Tommy Tabberer Cup R1

ILMINSTER Town A failed to raise a team for the trip to Beaminster Reserves who were handed a walkover.

Over at Slades Cross Drimpton extended they unbeaten run this season to 16 matches with goals from Chris Rowswell and Terry Farrell in a 2-0 win over hosts Combe A.

◆ **Quarter-finals (March 14th);**
Beaminster Res v Charmouth
Thorncombe v Waytown Hounds
Crewkerne Rangers v Uplyme
Drimpton v Crewkerne Town Res

Reg Eglon Cup QF

THE much-anticipated clash between Merriott Rovers and Combe B failed to materialise as the latter couldn't raise a team.

Merriott's opponents in the semi-final will be Winsham Utd Reserves who led all the way in beating Uplyme Reserves 6-2.

Paul Stuart scored twice and there were singles from player-manager Richard White, Tony Rockett, Rob Long and sub Toby Thorne.

The other semi will feature the league's newest teams with Chard Utd Allstars and Drimpton Reserves both booking their places.

Tom Woodhouse put Chard ahead in last Saturday's tie against Crewkerne Rangers Reserves at Wadham School only for Nick Bachrach to equalise.

But the visitors weren't to be denied and Woodhouse bagged his second before Ryan Hammett headed home the clincher. It was straight forward for Drimpton with Ben Dickinson (2), George Tuck and Matt Isaacs scoring in a 4-0 win at Farway Utd Res.

◆ **Semi-finals (March 7th);**
Chard Utd AllStars v Drimpton Res
Merriott Rovers v Winsham Utd Res

Around the League

PYMORE remain in the **Division One** drop-zone after they were beaten 2-1 by Lyme Regis Bantams. Shaun Stewart and Rhys Evans netted for the Seasiders' third-string with Tim Hussey replying.

Warren Gabbidon (2), Lee Fisher and Luke Bennett scored the goals as Thorncombe continued their push for promotion from **Division Two** with a sixth straight win in all competitions.

But a mention too for Thorns keeper Andy Bradley who made a clutch of fine saves to keep a clean sheet.

There were shocks aplenty in **Division Three** with the three leaders all dropping points at home.

Leaders Chard United Res were clearly second best in an emotional Jocelyn Park derby with Chard Rangers going down 6-1.

Both teams observed a minute's silence in memory of former United player Stephane Coombes who died on Saturday morning aged 23 (*see right*).

United started well and Liam Male fired them into a fifth minute lead with his 25th goal of the season.

But from here it was all Rangers. Tom Warren headed them level before Max Patch and free kick from MoM Alan Mansell had them ahead at 3-1 at half-time.

Isaac Patch sealed the win with a shot that crawled over the goal line and Warren back-heeled home number five.

Substitute Stuart Guest rounded things off with a curling cross shot.

Second placed Kingsbury shared four goals and the points with Merriott Dynamos who finished the game with 10-men after having a player sent-off for swearing by referee Lance Turner.

Ben Norman and Shane Reeks netted for the Kings with Louis Roper and Barry Hayne replying.

Meanwhile, back-to-back defeats at Shelway Lane has seen Barrington Reserves' challenge falter.

After a goal less first-half in Saturday's local-derby, visitors Shepton Beauchamp Reserves took the lead through a 25-yarder from Josh Fade. Jordan Brain made it 2-0 with a cheeky back heel before Chris Lang pulled one back but Shepton held on.

Meanwhile, Dowlish & Donyatt banked three points on their sloping Lawrence Kellett Ground for the first time since mid-October as they thrashed Thorncombe Reserves 6-1.

Tommy Smith bagged a hat-trick for the Dodgers whose other scorers were John Bartlett, Luke Dopson and Gavin Babb. James Tunnicliffe netted for the Thorns.

Depelted South Petherton Reserves picked up a point at lowly Millwey Rise Reserves when Jon Carter cancelled out an earlier OG. But Pethy manager Barry Kench felt it should have been more: "We were too greedy in front of goal and missed a lot of chances."

The only game in **Division Four** saw Hinton up to fifth spot after a 3-1 win at Chard Rangers Reserves.

Ken Forbes tapped the Saints in front before Ian Bambury crowned a solo run with an exquisite 35-yard lob to make it 2-0 at the break.

Kevin Cavanagh pulled one back for Rangers with a 75th minute free-kick but player-boss Ross Jewell found the top-corner from 25-yards to seal the win.

◆ *MISTERTON FC are holding a fund raising Race Night at the Globe Inn on Saturday, February 21st.*

The evening, which starts at 6.30pm, will include a hog roast, raffle and live music from guitarist John Stone.

RESULTS – February 7th

CHALLENGE CUP QF
Crewkerne Town 5 Beaminster 2
Ilminster Town Colts 0 Combe Reserves 12
Shepton Beauchamp 4 Lyme Regis Res 1
South Petherton 2 W & M Chinnock 0
ARTHUR GAGE CUP R1
Luso-Chard 0 Barrington 12
Netherbury 12 Farway Utd 0
TOMMY TABBERER CUP R1
Beaminster Res H/W Ilminster A
Combe St Nicholas A 0 Drimpton 2
REG EGLON CUP R1
Crewk Rangers Res 1 Chard Utd AS 3
Farway Utd Res 0 Drimpton Res 4
Merriott Rovers h/w Combe B
Winsham Utd Res 6 Uplyme Res 2
DIVISION ONE
Pymore 1 Lyme Regis Bantams 2
DIVISION TWO
Thorncombe 4 Uplyme 0
DIVISION THREE
Barrington Res 1 Shepton Beau Res 2
Chard Utd Res 1 Chard Rangers 6
Dowlish & Donyatt 6 Thorncombe Res 1
Kingsbury Episcopi 2 Merriott Dynamos 2
Millwey Rise Res 1 South Petherton Res 1
DIVISION FOUR
Chard Rangers Res 1 Hinton St George 3

TOMORROW'S FIXTURES
PERRY STREET LEAGUE *(all 2.30ko)*
PREMIER
Combe Reserves v Ilminster Town Colts
Perry Street v Shepton Beauchamp
W & M Chinnock v Crewkerne Town
DIVISION ONE
Barrington v Farway Utd
Forton Rangers v Lyme Regis Bantams
Netherbury v Luso-Chard
DIVISION TWO
Beaminster Reserves v Uplyme
Combe St Nicholas A v Waytown Hounds
Crewkerne Rangers v Thorncombe
Crewkerne Town Reserves v Drimpton
DIVISION THREE
Hawkchurch Utd v Chard Rangers
Merriott Dynamos v Barrington Reserves
Millwey Rise Res v Dowlish & Donyatt
Shepton Beauchamp Res v Chard Utd Res
Thorncombe Res v Kingsbury Episcopi
DIVISION FOUR
Chard Rangers Reserves v Merriott Rovers
Drimpton Reserves v Hinton St George
Farway Utd Res v Combe St Nicholas B
Uplyme Res v Winsham Utd Reserves

Stephane Coombes

THE local football scene was saddened to hear of the death of 23-year-old Chard United player Stephane Coombes.

United manager James Govier said: "I think its important that myself and Chard United pay tribute to Stephane - he was a great guy and will be missed by so many.

"Stephane was one of my first signings as CUFC manager back in 2009 and although I knew he had played youth football I didn't realise just how influential he would be.

"He had fantastic pace and was a natural finisher with a brilliant desire to win and his partnership with Ricky Anderson was one of the most feared in the division.

"Stephane hit close to 30 goals in his first, and ultimately only, full season in men's football.

"Part of Stephane's strength was his

◆ **WILL BE SADLY MISSED:** Stephane Coombes

fearless ability to take on people twice his stature, usually coming out on top. Unfortunately his courageous attitude resulted in an ankle injury which limited his appearances in the 2010-11 season.

"After a couple of seasons out of the game I approached him at the start of this season and he was excited about coming back. His last appearance for the club was in a pre-season friendly last July.

"I firmly believe if it wasn't for Stephane's contributions the club would not of enjoyed the success that was to come following the 2009/10 season.

"On behalf of Chard United FC I pass on our heartfelt condolences to Stephane's mum Isabelle, dad Roger, brother Amyon, sister Sophie and rest of his family."

A memorial match is set to be organised in the summer in his memory.

As they stand

Toolstation Div 1	Pld	+/-	Pts
Cribbs	29	33	64
Welton Rovers	27	29	64
Barnstaple Town	26	74	63
Ashton & Backwell	30	26	59
Wincanton Town	28	20	54
Almondsbury UWE	27	6	48
Corsham Town	28	17	47
Chippenham Park	28	12	42
Hengrove Athletic	29	3	40
CHARD TOWN	***30***	***-9***	***39***
Cheddar	27	3	38
Wellington	26	-2	37
Oldland Abbotonians	28	-13	37
Calne Town	31	-14	36
Radstock Town	29	-2	35
Devizes Town	28	-5	30
Keynsham Town	33	-37	34
Wells City	33	-16	29
Warminster Town	27	-15	26
Westbury United	32	-39	26
Roman Glass St George	29	-28	24
Portishead Town	29	-43	12

Somerset Premier	Pld	+/-	Pts
Shirehampton	24	36	59
Fry Club	20	12	39
Watchet Town	21	14	38
Cutters Friday	19	10	38
Clutton	22	8	37
Frome Collegians	21	19	36
Bishops Lydeard	22	0	36
Nailsea Utd	23	12	35
Wrington Redhill	20	-1	32
Bridgwater Town Res	23	3	30
Yatton Athletic	22	-21	28
Berrow	23	-2	27
Minehead	24	-17	25
Odd Down Reserves	21	-4	24
ILMINSTER TOWN	***21***	***-29***	***19***
Stockwood Green	24	-18	18
Broad Plain House	22	-9	16
Nailsea Town	20	-13	15

Somerset Div 2W	Pld	+/-	Pts
COMBE St NICHOLAS	***16***	***35***	***42***
Worle	17	31	36
Kewstoke Lions	16	29	33
Highbridge Town	18	33	31
Uphill Castle	16	12	31
Winscombe	14	39	30
Taunton Utd 1610	16	11	28
Cheddar Reserves	18	4	28
Clevedon Utd Reserves	15	-13	16
Nailsea Town Reserves	17	-14	15
Nailsea Utd Reserves	12	-8	13
Churchill Club 70	15	-29	10
Burnham Utd Reserves	17	-57	7
Weston St Johns Res	19	-73	7

D & E Premier	Pld	+/-	Pts
Tiverton Town Res	16	53	40
Heavitree Utd	18	26	38
Sidbury Utd	17	23	34
Newtown	21	3	32
Hatherleigh Town	13	22	29
Topsham Town	16	29	27
Feniton	14	21	27
Elmore	16	8	27
Thorverton	14	23	26
CHARD TOWN RES	***15***	***5***	***20***
Beer Albion	18	-18	19
Exeter University Res	15	-2	16
Bow AAC	16	-9	15
Seaton Town	18	-31	12
Willand Rovers Res	17	-17	10
Budleigh Salterton Res	22	-136	1

D & E Division 5	Pld	+/-	Pts
Otterton	21	11	37
Fluxton	16	35	36
Sampford Peverell	18	27	36
Sandford	16	18	34
Uplowman Athletic	17	27	31
Honiton Town Res	15	27	29
Halwill Reserves	16	7	27
Feniton Reserves	18	-6	24
Priory	13	-10	18
Winkleigh	12	-3	15
Hatherleigh Town Res	17	-32	15
Starcross Generals	16	-23	13
ILMINSTER RES	18	-40	10
Stoke Hill	19	-38	9

PSDL Premier	Pld	+/-	Pts
Crewkerne Town	10	40	30
South Petherton	13	39	28
Perry Street	14	21	28
Shepton Beauchamp	12	37	27
West & Midd Chinnock	12	23	25
Beaminster	13	29	18
Combe St Nicholas Res	13	22	16
Lyme Regis Reserves	14	-21	12
Misterton	13	-100	6
Ilminster Town Colts	14	-89	0

Division One	Pld	+/-	Pts
Barrington	12	51	36
Millwey Rise	13	19	28
Winsham Utd	14	11	25
Netherbury	12	11	23
Chard Utd	15	3	19
Forton Rangers	13	-1	18
Lyme Regis Bantams	13	-10	17
Luso-Chard	12	-26	9
Pymore	12	-18	5
Farway Utd	10	-40	3

Division Two	Pld	+/-	Pts
Drimpton	13	44	35
Thorncombe	13	30	30
Waytown Hounds	14	17	25
Crewkerne Town Res	10	12	22
Crewkerne Rangers	14	-10	20
Combe St Nicholas A	14	-8	16
Uplyme	11	8	13
Charmouth	14	-11	13
Beaminster Reserves	14	-13	11
Ilminster Town A	13	-69	-2*

Division Three	Pld	+/-	Pts
Chard Utd Reserves	14	18	31
Kingsbury Episcopi	14	27	28
Barrington Reserves	13	16	27
Hawkchurch Utd	11	19	19
Chard Rangers	12	-4	18
South Petherton Res	15	-9	18
Thorncombe Reserves	15	-11	17
Dowlish & Donyatt	12	-2	14*
Shepton Beau Res	14	-14	13
Merriott Dynamos	12	-6	11
Millwey Rise Reserves	14	-31	9*

Division Four	Pld	+/-	Pts
Merriott Rovers	11	62	33
Combe St Nicholas B	12	29	29
Winsham Utd Reserves	13	2	21
Crewkerne Rangers Res	14	6	20
Hinton St George	10	9	17
Uplyme Reserves	10	-2	15
Chard Rangers Res	12	-19	12
Drimpton Reserves	11	-10	9
Farway Utd Reserves	10	-16	9
Chard Utd All Stars	13	-61	4

*= points deducted

hockey chard

A team robbed

Bridgwater B 3
Chard A 1

THE final result does not reflect the game as Chard played the far better hockey, pinning their table-topping hosts back for long periods, particularly during the second half.

Only outrageous good fortune and some controversial decisions eventually enabled Bridgwater to pinch the points.

Chard Captain Gareth Eggle opted for a change of formation to give the team more cutting edge up front, with two out and out forwards and only three across the back.

In the early phases Chard struggled to adapt defensively but going forward they were more surefooted, putting together passing moves which had Bridgwater at full stretch.

When the home side went ahead from their first penalty corner, Eggle immediately restored parity with an fierce angled shot at the end of a run into the D.

Bridgwater restored their lead after a spell of sustained Chard pressure with a breakaway, Berge Balian saving the first shot, a follow up flick hitting the brave Danny Grabham on the head before the ball was bundled over the goal line.

This prompted double blow as the impressive Grabham played no further part in the game.

Dave Lury came on as substitute, but being less than fully fit himself, lasted less than 15 minutes.

Only the post denied Chard a deserved equaliser after Adam Veitch weaved past three challenges in the D before firing against the goal frame - the rebound just evaded Dan Stone.

Veitch brought a save from the keeper as another mazy run took him into the D, Stone himself having gone close slipping the ball past the keeper only for a covering defender to get back to clear off the line.

Harvey Dening then smashed a reverse stick shot towards the roof of the net only for it to be kept out by a reaction save.

Chard were not awarded a single penalty corner in the match, a surprising statistic for their dominance.

There should have been one in the last few minutes as Eggle rode three or four stick tackles before being penalised himself.

From the hit out Bridgwater launched a swift counter attack that saw them score their third and clinch the win against the run of play.

Chard welcome North Devon tomorrow.

SE 2 Div	Pd	GD	Pts
Bridgwater B	13	60	36
North Devon A	13	27	28
West Dorset A	12	27	28
Ashmoor A	12	39	23
Sidmth & Ott C	13	-6	21
CHARD A	13	36	18
Bridgwater C	13	13	18
Minehead B	13	-47	6
Taunton Vale D	13	-46	5
Sidmth & Ott D	13	-103	4

cycling chard wheelers presentation night

Talent flourishing as club celebrates

THE 1st Chard Wheelers recently held their Annual Awards night and dinner at Horton Village Hall.

A very sociable and fun evening was highlighted by Chris Opie, an Elite professional rider from Cornwall, presenting the Trophies to the recipients.

Opie, who has won many national level races and is also a winner of a stage of The Tour of Britain, also hosted an entertaining question and answer session.

Under 16 rider Emily Attfield was awarded the Mayors' Plate for outstanding achievement. The highlight of the season for Emily, who represented the South-West region in both track and road racing and topped British Cyclings National Rankings, was a national series win at Castle Combe. Not surprisingly, she also took the Top Ladies Trophy.

Joe West took the Most Improved rider cup after a tremendous year which saw him develop into a top track and road racer. His performances have secured him a place on the Olympic development program.

The Time Trial Best All-Rounder competition was won by Dave Moffett who rode consistently well over 10, 25 and 50-mile TTs.

The Senior and Junior President's trophies were awarded by Club President Dave Smith who also presented Honorary Life Memberships to John Trout and Anthony 'Nipper' Ebdon who have both been club members since it's inauguration in the 1950s.

Dave awarded the Senior trophy to Rob Hogg, for his high level of success throughout the year. Rob was absent on the night as he was collecting another award in Oxford as the Under 17 National Time Trial champion. Again, not surprisingly, young Hogg took the 10-mile TT league ladder title.

The Junior version went to Rowan Ellis who has emerged as a leading track rider and is the first South-West rider to win a Winter track league title at the Newport velodrome.

Chairman Brandon Ellis also paid tribute to several riders who had outstanding years, but just missed out on awards namely Justin Dance, Oli Cooper, Chris Burrows and Ben Moran.

Ellis said: "This is an indication of how well the club is doing, if this calibre of rider is just missing out".

The weekend concluded with Chris Opie cycling on the Sunday club ride to Langport when a large turnout of members enjoyed the ride across Sedgemoor.

If anyone would like further details of the clubs activities and coaching opportunities please ring Brandon Ellis 01460 221479 or visit www.1stchardwheelers.org.uk

◆ **RECOGNITION:** Chris Opie (left) and Dave Smith (right) award Life memberships to 'Nipper' Ebdon (centre left) and John Trout (centre right).

◆ **WELL DONE:** Emily Attfield is presented with the Mayors Plate by Chris Opie.

◆ **SILVERWARE:** Dave Moffett receives BAR Trophy from Chris opie.

horse racing round-up

Attention! Taunton racecourse backs local troops

MORE than 400 Royal Marines from 40 Commando recently enjoyed a day at the races courtesy of Taunton Racecourse.

The Commandos, who are based at nearby Norton Manor Camp, arrived before the start of the races and were greeted by Mike Foden the Chairman of the course.

Every effort was made to make the marines feel to home and the racecourse chef Charlotte Legg baked a cake that she decorated with the RM 40 Commando logo.

Chief executive Bob Young said: "We were absolutely delighted to see the Marines here, we hope they enjoyed themselves mingling with local racegoers.

"They are Taunton's troops, they do a difficult job well."

◆ Taunton's next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday** (February 17th) when the action gets underway at 2.10pm.

◆ **WHAT A TEAM:** Soon to be retired Champion jockey AP Mc Coy (second row centre left) was among the jockeys who lined up with the Royal Marines. *Photo by PINNACLE PHOTOGRAPHY*

WESSEX POINT-TO-POINT

The Combined Services at Larkhill

WILL Biddick rode his 200th winner between the flags when winning the Larkhill Restricted aboard Peter and Sandra Maltby's Willow Bird last Sunday.

Will rode his first winner aboard Ross Oliver's Let's Fly at the 2004 Axe Vale and enjoyed his most successful season with 42 wins in 2011/12. He's already well clear of his rivals in his quest for a fourth consecutive national title.

Trainer Jack Barber and Will completed a double with Benedictus, the easy winner of the Coronation Gold Cup Men's Open, one of the season's four National Classic races.

The 10-year-old never came off the bridle before overtaking King Fontaine halfway up the run-in.

Benedictus is now unbeaten in two outings for owners Messrs Barrow, Cotton, Irish, Moate, Trevarthen and Twyford after being purchased at Jack's owners' day last summer.

"The pace of today's race and fast ground has set it up for him but you must be patient and ride him like that; he's lost past races by leading too early," said Will.

My Flora, winner of the 2011 John Corbet Cup and fourth in the 2012 Cheltenham Foxhunter, returned to her best when upsetting odds-on favourite Posh Totty in the Ladies Open.

"It's all down to [trainer] Tor [Collins]," beamed Sarah Dawson, who bought My Flora, with Felicity Ashfield, for £15,000 at Doncaster in September.

"Tor changes the routines of horses to freshen them up. The key with My Flora is to keep her away from the gallops and to get her fit in the hills and with lots of hunting."

There were two first time riding successes at the meeting. Gunner Richie Rowe, 20, opened his account – at the first attempt – aboard Moet in the traditional King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery Members' race.

Richie, who has always hunted and show jumped, got his first taste of race riding when riding out at Eve Johnson-Houghton's historic Blewbury stables.

Olivia Lamphee got off the mark on her own Kayf Collateral, who already looked the winner when Daisy Picker fell at the last when still upsides. Olivia trains Kayf Collateral – alongside nine polo ponies – at her Ascot base.

Wak A Turtle and Daves Venture took the two divisions of the Horses & Geldings Maiden, which was split at declaration.

The former stormed clear from three out under Jamie Thomas to provide another success for in-form owner Jon Pike. "Jon bought him after our open day as we guaranteed he would win a Maiden," smiled trainer Kayley Woollacott.

"He used to compete over two miles so it's been tough to get him to settle over three but he jumps like a bunny and loves quicker ground."

Daves Venture just got the better of a driving finish with Crackacan. "Jockey David Noonan's father, Gerard, bred him and brought him over in the summer to assess his ability as his Irish form isn't good," summed up trainer Teresa Clark.

Hincheslea Moor showed the benefit of an autumn soft palate operation by running on strongly to take the Club Members' race.

"He wasn't getting home, now he's staying on strongly," pointed out owner-trainer James Young. "Jody (Sole) is a very experienced pilot who has won races like the Grand Military and Royal Artillery Gold Cups and is invaluable in this type of military contest."

Toby Hunt's Done A Runner (Lucy Wheeler) justified 4-7 favouritism in the closing Intermediate (for novice riders).

Guy Disney looked to have a useful advantage aboard Ballycassel but had no answer when Lucy urged Alan Hill's charge into the lead approaching the last.

Results

Going: Good to Firm - Entries: 121; runners: 73 (60%).

Combined Services Club Members (9 ran)
1. Hincheslea Moor (J Sole, 5-4F); 2. Trueflyingcolours (IRE) (Miss K Lyons, 8-1); 3. Swing Bill (FR) (G Disney, 3-1). 6min 01sec. 6l, ½l. (James Young).

Restricted (8 ran)
1. Willow Bird (W Biddick, 5-2); 2. The Holy Monster (F Henderson, 25-1); 3. Themanfromcork (D Noonan, 5-1). 6min 00s. 12l, 2l. (Jack Barber).

Ladies Open (8 ran)
1. My Flora (Miss H Watson, 5-2); 2. Posh Totty (Miss P Fuller, 4-5F); 3. Orang Outan (FR) (Miss R Talbot, 33-1). 6min 02s. 15l, 8l. (Victoria Collins)

Mens Open (Coronation Gold Cup) (6 ran)
1. Benedictus (IRE) (W Biddick, evensF); 2. King Fontaine (IRE) (T David, 20-1); 3. Executive Benefit (IRE) (G Crow, 11-10). 6min 02s. 2l, 1l. (Jack Barber).

Jockey Club Open Mares Maiden (7 ran)
1. Kayf Collateral (Miss O Lamphee, 12-1); 2. My Rosie B (IRE) (D Noonan, 7-2); only two finished. 6min 18s. 7l. (Olivia Lamphee).

Open Maiden (Horses & Geldings) (Div 1) (10 ran)
1. Wak A Turtle (IRE) (Jamie Thomas, 3-1); 2. Casino Boy (D Skelly, 8-1); 3. Chinatown Boy (IRE) (Miss A Mills, 15-8F). 6min 10s. 6l, 1l. (Kayley Woollacott).

Open Maiden (Horses & Geldings) (Div 2) (10 ran)
1. Daves Venture (IRE) (D Noonan, 6-1); 2. Crackacan (D Edwards, 7-4F); 3. Trumpet Master (M Green, 25-1). 6min 09s. Nk, 8l. (Teresa Clark).

Intermediate (Nov Rdrs) (7 ran)
1. Done A Runner (IRE) (Miss L Wheeler, 4-7F); 2. Ballycassel (IRE) (G Disney, 14-1); 3. Tucumcari (IRE) (Miss L Thomas, 9-1). 6min 02s. 8l, 4l. (Alan Hill).

King's Troop RHA Club Members, 2m4f (8 ran)
1. Moet (Gunner R Rowe); 2. Rentboy (Gunner H Brasher); 3. Bruce (Capt J Stamp). 6min 14s. 5l, 2l. (Sgt Luke Allen).

darts chard & district

Premier Division	Pld	Pts
Country Classics	13	163
High 4 & a Half	11	155
Rejects Return	11	140
BDBs	12	124
Crusaders	12	110
Hobnobs	12	109
Phoenix Clubbers	12	100
Pig Jockeys	12	91
Happy Sharks	12	86
Phoenix Poppes	11	71

180s; Gary Hill (7), Paul Lawrence (5), Leighton Cox, Louis Wells-Burr & Luke Lawrence (all 3), x9 players (2).

Division One	Pld	Pts
Down's	11	136
Hopefuls	11	125
Pop Darts	11	112
Pirates	9	111
We Can Do This	10	109
PAs	11	107
Stumpy's Gang	10	89
Cult of Person'ty	10	87
Winning Team	11	55

180s; Paul Newton (2), Mike Best, Paul Down, B.Gibson, Steve Lawrence & Jon Hodges (all x1).

Division Two	Pld	Pts
Okey Doaks	11	139
Two Minute Crew	12	127
Madhouse Crew	11	121
HRT	10	117
Clownin' Around	11	115
Happy Days	13	112
Duck Fs	11	95
Rare Breeds	10	88
Red Devils	11	85
Bs Knees	10	63

180s; Alan Sprake (2), Dave Bealey, Matt Leake, Steve Major, Gill McQueen, Tracey Scriven and Julie White (all 1).

snooker seaton league

THERE was

Results - January 27th; Colyton TC 2

League Table	Pld	Pts
Wonderers	13	55
Chard IZZA 147	13	46
Colyton Feds	13	46
Chard Casuals	13	39
Colyton ExCons	13	37
Honiton WMC	13	37
Colyton TC	13	34
Sidmouth Allsorts	13	15

Bruce Miller Cup	Pld	Pts
Colyton Feds	13	80
Honiton WMC	13	67
Chard IZZA147	13	62
Colyton TC	13	62
Chard Casuals	13	61
Wonderers	13	57
Colyton ExCons	13	47
Sidmouth Allsorts	13	25

youth football

Merriott Wanderers in County Final

Clevedon United 4
Merriott Wanderers 5

MERRIOTT Wanderers are through to the prestigious U16 Somerset County Shield Final after overcoming Clevedon United at West Chinnock on Sunday.

Three first half goals from George Hayward (2) and Jack Steer set the tone for the afternoon with Clevedon replying to go in 3-1 down at the break.

The second half proved to be classic with Clevedon clawing their way back into the game but strikes from Alex Eckland and Scott Jakeman ensured a less than comfortable 5-4 victory and a final date in May versus Timsbury Athletic.

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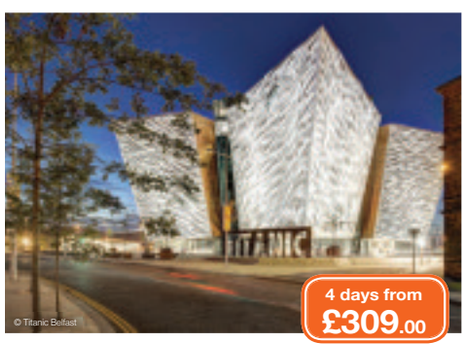
- Free use of tennis courts and. sunbeds
- The services of a friendly, experienced Tour Manager

Applies to new bookings made in Feb 2015 on selected Air holidays. Quote code FEBSALE. May be withdrawn any time & can't be used with any other offer.



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- Return flights to Belfast direct from Bristol
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Departs May, June, July, September & October 2015

This wonderful value break takes in three of the former East Germany's most glorious cities - reunified Berlin, newly sparkling Leipzig and stunning Baroque gem Dresden – and visits the famous castle at Colditz.

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- Return flights to Berlin from Bristol
- Return airport-to-hotel transfers
- Two nights' bed and breakfast accommodation at the three-star Hotel Tiergarten in Berlin, and two nights' bed and breakfast accommodation at the three-star Park Inn Hotel in Dresden
- Included tours of Berlin, Leipzig and Dresden
- Guided visit to Colditz
- The services of a Tour Manager

Applies to new bookings made in Feb 2015 on selected Air holidays. Quote code FEBSALE. May be withdrawn any time & can't be used with any other offer.

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Join us in the Neapolitan Riviera and enjoy a week of fascinating sights and Italian hospitality. Based in three-star half-board accommodation in exquisite Sant' Agata, this hugely popular holiday includes escorted visits to Pompeii, mount Vesuvius and the enchanting Isle of Capri, and a breath taking drive along the Amalfi Coast.

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Discover Ireland's finest scenery, in this beautiful land of rivers and loughs, towering mountains and sheltered glens, where the Irish language is still widely spoken, and traditional music rings out from the pubs and bars. The break, based in a three-star hotel, includes a visit to the astonishing Giant's Causeway.

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Discover and explore a trio of Europe's finest cities and their delightful surrounding countryside, with included guided tours in each. A visit to Slovakian capital Bratislava completes this fully escorted tour.

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This wonderful week-long holiday offers plenty of time to relax and enjoy the glorious Riviera surroundings, and also includes four wonderful excursions taken in the company of our friendly, knowledgeable tour manager.

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